

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

Once groundwater has been contaminated, clean up may be very expensive and difficult, if not impossible. Preventing pollution will protect the groundwater in a much more, effective way than trying to clean up contamination later. Here are some useful tips you can follow in your home:

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- House hold products such as insecticides, oil-based paint, furniture polish, and wood preservatives can contaminate groundwater if poured into a septic system, storm drain, any body of water, or simply on the ground. Contact the Village to find out how to dispose of these and other items through their household hazardous waste program.
- Consider alternatives to household products that contain hazardous chemicals. For instance, latex paints are far less toxic than oil-based paints. Watch for more tips on alternative household and yard care products from the Milford Village Wellhead Protection Program.
- Recycle used motor oil and brake and transmission fluid. Many service stations already recycle motor oil, and many will accept used motor oil from do-it-yourself oil changers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Village of Milford Wellhead Protection Program
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Milford, Michigan 48381
(248) 684-1515

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Milford, Michigan 48381

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Milford's



Wellhead Protection Program

Committed to
Protecting Milford's
Drinking Water Supply



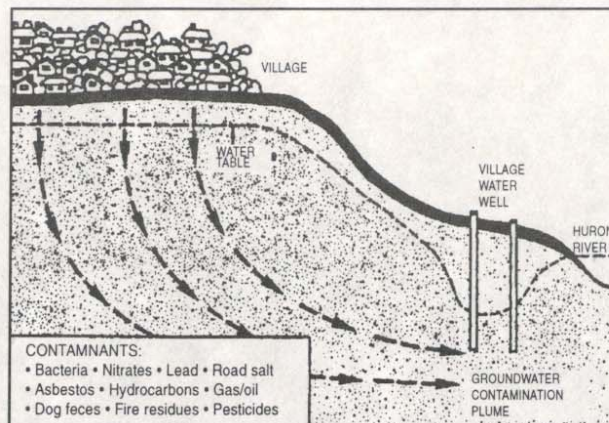
WHY FOCUS ON GROUNDWATER?

Groundwater and its protection are integral to the overall quality of life for the Village of Milford. It is important to understand that water movement is cyclical. It travels from within the ground to the surface (springs, rivers, lakes), to the air (evaporation) and back to the surface (precipitation), where it seeps into the ground. While over a hundred households within the Village's limits are on private wells, most residents receive their drinking water from two municipal wells located in Central Park. In 1990, trace amounts of contaminants were found in the Village water supply. Though concentrations are not high enough to warrant a threat to public health, Village officials are planning to prevent future contamination.

Currently the State of Michigan has over 8800 sites of environmental contamination, eight of which are in and around the Village of Milford. Because every resident depends on groundwater to supply homes, industries and recreational activities with a clean supply of water, a program for Wellhead Protection (WHP) within the Village has been developed.

WHAT IS WELLHEAD PROTECTION?

Wellhead Protection (WHP) is a program of planning and management aimed at preventing the contamination of public water supply wells. The objective of Milford's WHP is to manage or control potential sources of contamination throughout the Village of Milford, with a particular focus of a specifically designated area surrounding the well field. This terrain or landscape contributes infiltration water, or recharge, to the municipal wells. Contaminants found at or below the land's surface can move with this recharge towards the public water supply pumping well.



WHY DOES MILFORD NEED WELLHEAD PROTECTION?

One of the most valuable resources in the Village of Milford is our groundwater. Not only does it supply homes, businesses and industries with clean water, but it is also the base flow to all area lake and river systems including the Huron River and Kent Lake.

Groundwater is especially vulnerable to contamination because it moves very slowly - only a few inches to a few feet per day. Once pollutants reach the groundwater, it is very difficult and costly to clean up. Another reason why groundwater contamination lingers for decades is because many of the processes which break down chemicals in surface water; sunlight, oxygen, and warm temperatures, are lacking in groundwater.

WHAT IS WELLHEAD PROTECTION IN THE VILLAGE OF MILFORD?

Determining the Protection Area - The program has determined the land area that requires the greatest protection, the land mass contributing water to the Village wells. Studies have determined how fast and in what direction groundwater flows. Program planners have mapped out the area which contributes recharge water. (and, therefore, any contaminants) to the Village wells.

Land Use Inventory - An inventory of land uses in and around the Village will determine potential sources of contamination. Underground fuel storage tanks, landfills, sites of historical contamination such as chemical spills, and industrial facilities are just a few examples of land uses the program is looking at.

Pollution Prevention Strategies - An advisory committee made up of local citizens, planning officials, and Village and Township staff is responsible for developing the best management strategies to protect the Village's water supplies. These strategies include groundwater protection considerations in site plan and building codes; public education through brochures and other materials; and encouraging pollution prevention through sound handling of hazardous chemicals and the use of alternative, non-hazardous materials in households and businesses.

Village of Milford Wellhead Protection Area

